

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested. Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-3, 5-6, 8, and 10-20 are pending in the application, with 1, 5, 8, 10, and 15 being the independent claims. Claims 10 and 15-20 are sought to be amended so as to put the application in condition for allowance, and in consideration of the Examiner's suggestions in the Office Action. These amendments should not require a new search, as they are not intended to overcome cited references. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested. Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101

The Office Action states on pages 2-3 that claims 15 and 17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Claim 16 was objected to for being dependent on rejected claim 15. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Applicants disagree that the pending claims 15, and 17-20 were outside the scope of 35 U.S.C. § 101. However, in order to expedite prosecution of this application, Applicants have amended claims 15-20 to recite a computer-based method, as suggested by the Examiner. Thus, amended claims 15-20 are statutory under 35 U.S.C. § 101. This amendment is supported by the specification and has not been made to overcome cited references. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of claims 15-20 is respectfully requested.

Other Matters

Applicants acknowledge with gratitude the Examiner's allowance of claims 1-3, 5-6, 8, and 10-14. Applicants appreciate the Office Action's suggested amendments to claims 1, 5 and 10.

Claim 10 has been amended to correct an antecedent basis error. This amendment is supported by the specification and has not been made to overcome cited references. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the amendment to claim 10 be entered by the Examiner.

Applicants believe claims 1 and 5 are unambiguous, and definite within the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, as well as satisfying 35 U.S.C. § 101. Therefore, Applicants believe that these claims do not need further amendment.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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